



BALARINJI

How is an art aircraft created?

- Balarinji deconstructs an original painting and reforms it as a design that works around a fuselage, in a way that responds to the viewer from all angles – from the ground, from an air bridge, in the sky. Scale, colour, distribution of motifs and compatibility with Qantas branding and safety requirements are carefully considered.
- Best practice Intellectual Property management ensures the Aboriginal artist, family and community are central in project development, and the integrity of the art is preserved in interpretation.
- It typically takes two years from concept to launch. Over that time, Balarinji works with Qantas Engineering, Boeing and Boeing's design agency, Teague, to take a 2-D vision into 3-D renders and eventually onto the airport fuselage in the Boeing paint facility in Seattle, USA.

Who is Balarinji, the design company behind Qantas' two decades of Indigenous art aircraft?

- A Sydney-based Aboriginal-owned design and strategy agency that celebrates 35 years in 2018.
- Founded in Adelaide in 1983 by its current chair, Yanyuwa NT man John Moriarty, and its current managing and creative director Ros Moriarty.
- Balarinji is currently delivering a curatorial commission for Australia's new Sir John Monash Centre at Villers-Bretonneux, France, opening on ANZAC Day 2018. The Centre will tell the story of Australians who served on Europe's Western Front in World War I.
- In an Australian first, Balarinji is delivering cultural design principles to embed Aboriginal story within large scale public infrastructure master planning and design. Two projects are Sydney's Waterloo urban regeneration development, and the Sydney Metro West rail development from Parramatta to the CBD.
- Balarinji's only other painted aircraft is a RAAF Hornet, commissioned by the Air Force to acknowledge Aboriginal service in all Australia's overseas military engagement since the Boer War 1899-1902.
- Australia's 2016 Rio Paralympic Team was the first Australian Olympic team to define its look with Aboriginal designs when its athletes wore uniforms with fabrics created by Balarinji.

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- In recognition of Balarinji's contribution to building best practice participation between Aboriginal communities, business and the broader community, Ros and John Moriarty were inducted into the Design Institute of Australia's Hall of Fame in 2014.
- Swiss brand Nespresso has installed Balarinji capsule art walls in its boutiques around Australia since 2012, and in 2017 Microsoft commissioned the studio to animate a multi-screen Aboriginal theme for its flagship Sydney store.
- The Balarinji Design Archive is held in the collection of the National Museum of Australia as a legacy for the Australian design community, and Balarinji is also represented in Sydney's Powerhouse Museum and the Centre for Contemporary Graphic Design, Fukuoka, Japan.
- Balarinji has an affiliated not-for-profit, The Nangala Project, which enables Aboriginal families and communities to unlock the potential of their children, to radically shift intergenerational disadvantage. The programs support education and health outcomes for children from 0-16 in remote Australia, through early learning and football (soccer).

Balarinji and Qantas

- The relationship between Qantas and Balarinji began in 1983, when the airline ranged the studio's very first superfine wool scarves for in-flight shopping
- The first aircraft in the Flying Art Series conceptualized by Balarinji for Qantas was in 1994 with Wunala Dreaming, a 747-400. Since then four more aircraft have been painted with Indigenous designs. Learn more [here](#).
- Balarinji designed the Wirriyarra textile for Peter Morrissey's 2003 Qantas uniform, the longest running uniform in the airline's history.
- Balarinji has delivered mentoring, strategic review and cultural competency to Qantas teams, to assist the airline optimise its leadership in Aboriginal employment and engagement.

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